



December 30, 2016

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Ms. Tina Marie Barnes  
Campus President  
Everest University - Pinellas  
1199 East Bay Drive  
Largo, FL 33770

*largo\_acics@zenith.org*

**Subject: Program-Level Withdrawal of Approval**

Dear Ms. Barnes:

The Council has reviewed the Campus Accountability Reports (CAR) for the last three (3) reporting periods – 2014, 2015, and 2016. As a result of its review, the Council found the following based on the *Accreditation Criteria*:

- The following programs are significantly out of compliance with ACICS standards for student achievement and have been underperforming for the last three years with their placement rates, and at this time they have been determined to have little or no chance of coming into compliance within the maximum time frames (Section 2-1-809).

**Placement Performance**

Program Name	Credential	2014 Rate	2015 Rate	2016 Rate
Business Administration	Master's Degree	50%	33%	0%
Computer Information Science	Academic Associate's Degree	50%	40%	0%
Criminal Justice	Academic Associate's Degree	25%	23%	33%
Criminal Justice	Bachelor's Degree	30%	0%	0%

### **Council Action**

The Council considers student achievement outcomes to be of the utmost importance and due to the significant nature in which the campus is out of compliance with that standard, the Council acted to withdraw approval for the programs. However, this withdrawal of program approval does not apply to currently enrolled students through the period of time during which their teach-out is conducted to its completion.

### **Termination of Programs**

In accordance with Section 2-2-503 of the *Accreditation Criteria*, **the campus must cease any new enrollments** in the listed programs on or before the due date for submission of the Program Termination applications, with immediate public notice to all interested parties, including, but not limited to, students, governmental agencies, the local community, and ACICS. Further, the campus must submit a Program Termination application through its Member Center account for all affected programs within ten (10) days of receipt of this notification. As part of the supporting documentation for the application, the campus must provide the following:

1. Evidence that all interested parties have been notified appropriately. Documentation must include copies of web posting, email blasts, formal communication, catalog revisions, and updates to all advertising materials.
2. An audit of all students currently enrolled in the programs with an indication of expected date of completion/matriculation.
3. A plan to teach-out students in those programs that does not negatively impact their progress to complete the programs in the normal time frame. This plan must include documentation to demonstrate that the campus will continue to offer the educational services to these students, including courses and student and employment support services or provide formal agreements with comparable institutions to facilitate a transfer of these students.

Council-directed withdrawal of approval for a program conditions the institution's grant of accreditation with respect to the inclusion of the program and therefore is appealable to the Council. Due to the limited nature and narrow scope of the withdrawal of program approval, the appeal to the Council will be in writing only. Given that the programs have failed to meet standards for three consecutive years, consideration for the appeal will only be given with demonstrable improvements as reported in a mid-CAR (July 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016) with verifiable supporting placement (with waiver) information.

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If the campus intends to appeal this withdrawal of program approval action, it must submit all materials by **March 1, 2017** to [car@acics.org](mailto:car@acics.org). Otherwise, the programs will be considered withdrawn and will be removed from the campus's approved program listing.

Please contact Dr. Terron King at [tking@acics.org](mailto:tking@acics.org) or (202) 336-6771 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger J. Williams", is written over a faint, light-colored background image of a person.

Roger J. Williams  
Interim President

- c: Ms. Cathy Sheffield, Accreditation and State Liaison, U.S. Department of Education  
([aslrecordsmanager@ed.gov](mailto:aslrecordsmanager@ed.gov))  
Mr. Christopher Miller, U.S. Department of Education, School Participation Division-  
Region IV ([christopher.miller@ed.gov](mailto:christopher.miller@ed.gov))  
Mr. Samuel Ferguson, Florida Department of Education ([joey.smith@fldoe.org](mailto:joey.smith@fldoe.org))